

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

7830 '99 JUL 12 A10:30

Re: Docket #98N-1038

To whom it may concern:

The FDA should retain the current labeling law, the current terminology of "treated with radiation" or "treated by irradiation," and the use of the Radura symbol on ALL irradiated foods.

Regarding the issue of labeling, in its initial petition, the FDA concluded that irradiation was a "material fact" about the processing of a food and thus should be disclosed. For this reason, LABELING SHOULD REMAIN!

Nutrients and storage qualities are affected when foods are irradiated. Many fruits and vegetables have nutrient losses that are not obvious to the consumer. Irradiation processing causes chemical changes that are not evident and are potentially hazardous. All irradiated foods contain unique radiolytic products that have never been tested.

Even though the FDA has approved irradiation as safe, there are no long term human feeding studies to guarantee safety in the health of humans. For this reason, consumers have the right to decide whether to purchase food that has been irradiated or not. To do this clear, specific labeling is necessary.

Labeling should be on the front of the package and large enough to be readily visible. For produce, a sticker on each package or piece should read "irradiated" and also show the Radura symbol.

Since there is no evidence of long term safety in the consumption of irradiated foods, I believe the FDA's labeling requirement should NOT be permitted to expire.

Sincerely,

*Marsha Carter*

*218 E. 10th*

*Leadville, CO*

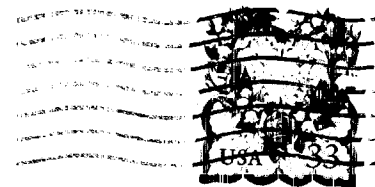
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